



CODED CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: February 28, 2008	NUMBER: 08-02
TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing	FROM: Dale A. Janssen Executive Director Commission on Teacher Credentialing
SUBJECT: Minimum Passing Score for the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET): Arabic, Armenian, Cantonese, Farsi, Hmong and Khmer Language Examinations	

Summary:

The CSET examinations satisfy subject matter competency requirements for a Single Subject teaching credential. The CSET examinations in Arabic, Armenian, Cantonese, Farsi, Hmong, and Khmer were first administered on November 3, 2007. At the January 31, 2008 Commission meeting, a minimum passing score of 220 was adopted for each of these six new CSET examinations.

Key Provisions:

The test structure of the CSET: Arabic, Armenian, Farsi, Hmong and Khmer examinations is divided into two subtests, each containing only constructed-response items. Subtest II requires oral responses spoken in the target language. Table 1 lists the subtests, domains, and minimum passing score for each examination.

Table 1

California Subject Examinations for Teachers: Arabic, Armenian, Farsi, Hmong, and Khmer Examinations		
<i>Subtest</i>	<i>Domains</i>	<i>Minimum Passing Score</i>
I	General Linguistics Linguistics of the Target Language Literary and Cultural Texts and Traditions Cultural Analysis and Comparisons	220
II	Language and Communication: Listening Comprehension Reading Comprehension Written Expression Oral Expression	220

The test structure of the CSET: Cantonese examination consists of three separate subtests. Each subtest is composed of multiple-choice questions plus constructed responses questions. Subtest III of the CSET: Cantonese examination also includes a listening multiple-choice component. Table 2 lists the subtests, domains, and minimum passing score for the CSET: Cantonese examination.

Table 2

California Subject Examinations for Teachers: Cantonese		
<i>Subtest</i>	<i>Domains</i>	<i>Minimum Passing Score</i>
I	General Linguistics Linguistics of the Target Language	220
II	Literary and Cultural Texts and Traditions Cultural Analysis and Comparisons	220
III	Language and Communication: Listening Comprehension Reading Comprehension Written Expression Oral Expression	220

Table 3 identifies the test codes for each of the new CSET language examinations subtests.

Table 3

CSET:	<i>Test code Subtest I</i>	<i>Test code Subtest II</i>	<i>Test Code Subtest III</i>
Arabic	192	193	
Armenian	194	195	
Cantonese	202	203	204
Farsi	196	197	
Hmong	198	199	
Khmer	200	201	

A passing score on a CSET subtest must be achieved at a single CSET administration; performance on sections of subtests cannot be combined across test administrations. Once a subtest is passed, that subtest does not need to be taken again as long as the score is used to earn certification within five years of the test date on which it was achieved.

Background:

In the fall of 2006, the Commission appointed six subject matter advisory panels for Phase IV development of the CSET, for the single subject areas of Arabic, Armenian, Cantonese, Farsi, Hmong, and Khmer. Panel members were California educators and professionals who had academic knowledge of and fluency in one of the six languages

identified above, as well as a deep familiarity with the culture and cultural traditions of that language community.

The test structure for five of these languages was established by the panels based on the approved test structure for the CSET: Filipino examination; the Cantonese examination test structure was based on the previously-approved test structure for the CSET: Mandarin examination. The examination development process was completed in the fall of 2007.

Following the first test administration, standard setting studies for each of the six new CSET language examinations were held in December 2007. The purpose of the standard setting studies is to provide the Commission with recommendations based on the professional judgments of California educators relevant to the determination of the initial passing standards.

References:

California Subject Examinations for Teachers - <http://www.cset.nesinc.com>

California Teacher Credentialing Examinations - <http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com>

Contact Information:

Contact the Commission's Information Services Unit by telephone at (888)921-2682, Monday through Friday from 1:00 pm to 4:45 pm or by electronic mail at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.